

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-63 are pending in this application. Claims 6-10, 16-35, and 50-63 are withdrawn from further consideration. By this amendment, as indicated in the listing of the claims above, claims 1, 11, 36, and 43 are amended.

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the Specification as originally filed, for example, claim 26 and paragraph [0034] of the Application as Published. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

II. DRAWINGS

Figs. 4A-4D were objected to as being unclear. Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d) are hereby submitted to overcome this objection.

Reconsideration of the objection and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

III. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5, 11-15, and 36-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As indicated above, independent claims 1, 11, and 36 have been amended by this response, thereby obviating the § 112 rejections. The specification also has been amended to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter. For illustration purposes only, Exhibit A is

attached following page 10 of this paper to illustrate an example of an “open angle” recited in claim 4.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 112 rejection in this application.

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 11-15, 36-43, 48, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,093,491 to Dugan et al. (“Dugan”).

Instant claim 1 recites:

“A papermaking fabric or an engineered fabric for use in the production of paper or nonwovens, said fabric comprising a plurality of uncoated functional monofilaments having a grooved-shaped cross-section and having reduced air permeability compared with a fabric having round ungrooved monofilaments, wherein the bottom of the groove-shaped cross-section is wider than its open top.” (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, one embodiment of the present invention relates to a papermaking fabric or an engineered fabric for use in the production of paper or nonwovens. The instant invention specifically relates to fabrics such as forming, press, dryer, TAD, pulp forming, sludge filter, chemiwasher, or engineered fabrics, which are installed on huge industrial machines, wherein the air handling capability or reduced air permeability of a fabric is very important for proper functioning of the industrial fabric.

Dugan, on the other hand, relates to a thermoplastic fiber showing moisture wicking properties. Dugan has no reference to industrial fabrics whatsoever. Dugan specifically relates to garments and moisture wicking, and his yarn does **not** work unless there remains an open channel **and** there is the hydrophilic coating on the groove perimeter. *Dugan*, col. 17, lines 20-

22. The instant invention does not require any such coating to function as intended.

Additionally, Dugan, in its entirety, does not teach or suggest the feature of reducing air permeability of the fabric. In fact, one skilled in the art would expect there to be an increase in air permeability in a fabric as disclosed by Dugan. Particularly in view of the problem Dugan is seeking to solve, the increased comfort for the wearer of garments made by such a fabric.

Furthermore, air permeability and wicking properties are not related. Wicking deals with the absorption of fluid into the fibers of the fabric and the transport to a location where such fluid can be vaporized. In contrast, air permeability is concerned with the flow of air through the fabric or in essence around each and every fiber of the fabric. Accordingly, the teachings of Dugan have little or no impact on the air permeability of an industrial fabric. All the fibers disclosed in Dugan relate to conventional textiles or garments, as discussed, and not to industrial fabrics, as claimed in the instant invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that since the above claimed features breathe life and meaning into the claim, it would be improper to ignore the claimed features when construing the claims of the present application.

Dugan fails to teach or suggest **a papermaking or engineered fabric including uncoated functional monofilaments** having a grooved-shaped cross-section wherein the bottom of the groove-shaped cross-section is wider than its open top, as recited in the instant claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 36 are patentable over Dugan.

Additionally, since claims 2-5, 12-15, and 37-49 are directly or indirectly dependent on one of the above claims, they are also patentable over Dugan.

Claims 1-5, 11-15, 36-43, 45, 48, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0127127 to Dana Eagles (“Eagles”).

Applicants respectfully submit that Eagles fails to teach or suggest a fabric comprising a plurality of **uncoated functional monofilaments**, as recited in the instant claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 36 are patentable over Eagles.

Additionally, since claims 2-5, 12-15, and 37-49 are directly or indirectly dependent on one of the above claims, they are also patentable over Eagles.

Claims 1-5, 11-15, 36-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,925,434 to Phillips et al. (“Phillips”).

First, Phillips relates to tuftable primary backings, and carpets made from the backings. The backings employ fabrics made from serrated tape yarns which are coated with a film of a thermoplastic material, and include a tufting lubricant applied to a portion of the serrated yarns.

Phillips has no reference to industrial fabrics whatsoever. The present invention, as claimed, relates to a papermaking fabric or an engineered fabric for use in the production of paper or nonwovens. The instant invention specifically relates to fabrics such as forming, press, dryer, TAD, pulp forming, sludge filter, chemiwasher, or engineered fabrics, which are installed on huge industrial machines, wherein the air handling capability or reduced air permeability of a fabric is very important for proper functioning of the industrial fabric.

Applicants respectfully submit that since the above claimed features breathe life and meaning into the claim, it would be improper to ignore the claimed features when construing the claims of the present application.

Therefore, Phillips does not teach or suggest **a papermaking or engineered fabric**, as recited in the instant claims.

Second, it is disclosed throughout Phillips' disclosure that the coating is essential for the backing to function as intended. The instant invention, on the contrary, does not require any such coating to function as intended.

Therefore, Phillips does not teach or suggest **a papermaking or engineered fabric including uncoated functional monofilaments** having a grooved-shaped cross-section wherein the bottom of the groove-shaped cross-section is wider than its open top, as recited in the instant claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 36 are patentable over Phillips.

Additionally, since claims 2-5, 12-15, and 37-49 are directly or indirectly dependent on one of the above claims, they are also patentable over Phillips.

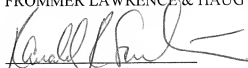
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and an early favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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